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# PROCEDURE

# *Department of Natural Resources*

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Date: September 2003

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**Cancels:** Replaces PRs 14-005-030 (Aug 1999) and -006-050, 060, and -070, (May 2000). Effective immediately.

## **PR 14-005-030**      **FOREST STAND TENDING**

**APPLICATION** This procedure applies to forest stand tending activities on trust uplands. Stand tending refers to activities that occur after the free-to-grow stage. They include, but are not limited to, pre-commercial and commercial thinning, fertilization, pruning, and pest treatments.

**Discussion** The Forest Resource and Habitat Conservation Plans (FRP and HCP) direct or imply stand tending activities to best attain Forest Management Unit (FMU) objectives within budgetary limits. This procedure summarizes Department policy and direction for stand tending. This procedure also emphasizes, by being a single document for dissimilar activities that overlap in scope and intent, the imperative of structuring these activities to eliminate superfluous entries within a stand's rotation. The Department will sustain region ability to select and prioritize activities through state-of-the-art techniques and field craft by periodic training and education.

**Action** All stand improvement activities shall enhance attainment of FMU objectives and reflect current, relevant science. Regions shall prioritize stand improvement activities within allocated resources to best attain FMU silvicultural prescription objectives. Although stand improvements may have many objectives, ultimate trust benefit shall be enhanced (FRP policy 34). In addition:

--Thinnings shall occur within biological limits for the stand at hand and account for and manage associated risk. Thin to attain stand variability and structure, if consistent with FMU objectives.

--Forest fertilization shall require a determination of suitability of fertilizer composition, form, application rate, and timing of application to site nutrient deficiencies and interacting factors. For new stands, biological means (e.g., red alder) in lieu of chemical fertilizer shall be considered.

--Pruning shall be considered if the return justifies the investment and habitat effects are benign.

--Forest pest treatments shall be prioritized to stands where forest health is waning or at risk. This undertaking shall take priority over other stand activities until stand health and acceptable risk levels are restored. Pest treatments shall incorporate the principles of integrated pest management (IPM): (1) preventive measures, (2) host control by thinning or stand replacement, (3) biological pathogen control, (4) chemical pathogen control, and (5) host control through prescribed fire. Selected approaches shall, as applicable, identify a desired ecological seral stage conducive to forest health and be based on predicted effectiveness in attaining all objectives for the FMU.

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DRAFT for SEPA Review—8/11/2003**